

Please add new Claim 19 as follows:

E2 19. (New Claim) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 18, wherein said counter electrode includes at least two portions.

20. (New Claim) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 19, wherein said at least two portions are arranged in substantially mutually parallel relation with one another.

REMARKS

This is in supplement to the Amendment filed on 28 November 2001 in response to the Official Action that is currently outstanding with respect to the above-identified application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy accorded to their undersigned attorney during the course of a telephone interview regarding this case conducted on 12 December 2001. The restatement of the present claims so as to more accurately reflect the scope of the present invention that is presented by the foregoing amendment and the justification therefor substantially as set forth below were discussed during this interview. No substantive agreement was reached during this interview.

By the foregoing Supplemental Amendment, Applicants have further amended this application in such a manner that the claims more accurately reflect the scope of the invention. Specifically, Claim 18 now has been rephrased to generically claim "a counter electrode". Also, new Claims 19 and 20 have been added. New Claims 19 and 20 are directed respectively particularly to the structure of Claim 1 wherein the counter electrode has "at least two portions", and wherein the "at least two portions are arranged in substantially mutually parallel relation with one another".

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments are fully supported by the specification of this application as originally filed. Thus, it is clear that the structure of the counter electrode is contemplated to be such that an opposite signal may be input into an opposite region corresponding to each of the plurality of pixel electrodes. In this respect, therefore, the specific number of counter electrodes (or counter electrode portions) present is not limited so long as the desired function is provided.

Further, the specification clearly describes counter electrodes disposed on an alignment film as being easily formed. It is respectfully submitted that since the specification is directed to a person of ordinary skill in the art, this disclosure is sufficient to incorporate by reference the knowledge of such a person concerning the well-known counter electrode structures in the art. Those structures include counter electrodes having at least two portions, and also include counter electrodes having at least two portions in substantially mutually parallel relation with one another on an alignment film.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants are entitled to claims of the scope of those presented by this Amendment. More particularly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims herein presented do not introduce any so-called "new matter" into this application, and do not present any problems with respect to the enablement and/or written description requirements of the United States Patent Laws.

For each, and all, of the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that Claims 3-5, 7, 18, 19 and 20 of this application, as they will stand upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application, therefore, are respectfully requested.

Applicants also believe that additional fees beyond those submitted herewith are not required in connection with the consideration of this response to the currently outstanding Official Action. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 26, 2001

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VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

Additions shown underlined; Deletions shown in brackets.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please further amend Claim 18 as follows:

18. (Twice Amended) An easy-to-manufacture liquid crystal display device, said device comprising:

a first insulative substrate on which picture element electrodes are aligned in a matrix configuration defining an image display region; and a second insulative substrate on which a [plurality of] counter electrode[s] are] is disposed;

wherein said first insulative substrate and said second insulative substrate are adhered to each other with a liquid crystal material interposed therebetween such that each said picture element electrode faces at least a portion of [a corresponding one of] said counter electrode[s]; and

wherein said first insulative substrate further includes thereon a plurality of switching elements connected respectively to said picture elements, line means for supplying signals to said switching elements, a plurality of color filters arranged to correspond to the picture element electrodes in said display region, a light shielding frame layer disposed around a periphery of said display region, and light shielding layers corresponding to said switching elements for shielding incident light thereon.

Please add new Claims 19 and 20 as follows:

19. (New Claim) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 18, wherein said counter electrode includes at least two portions.

20. (New Claim) The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 19, wherein said at least two portions are arranged in substantially mutually parallel relation with one another.